



Voting Information News

August 2004 *vs* Vol. 14, No. 8

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Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

✓ Plan your Armed Forces Voters Week (AFVW) activities. Get the whole community involved and aim for 100% contact.

✓ Contact your local commissary and exchange and organize voter outreach activities starting with AFVW and through October 15 (last day of Absentee Voting Week).

✓ Use local resources such as Commander's bulletins, newspapers, radio and television stations to help you get the word out about voting. Post motivational posters on bulletin boards in offices, commissaries and exchanges.

✓ Take an inventory to ensure you have adequate supplies of the absentee voting materials (make sure that you have an ample supply of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186) for overseas voters.

✓ Visit the FVAP's website frequently for up-to-date, on-line information and resources from the Program as well as links to other sites of interest in carrying out your duties as a VAO. The FVAP is continually updating the website: www.fvap.gov.

***A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.***

CELEBRATE ARMED FORCES VOTERS WEEK SEPTEMBER 3-11, 2004

With the November 2004 General Election almost upon us, and registration deadlines even sooner, time is running out for citizens who want to participate in the elections this year. This is why the Secretary of Defense has decreed the week of September 3 - 11, 2004 as Armed Forces Voters Week (AFVW). This week is the last really safe week to submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, request for registration and/or an absentee ballot which meets most state deadlines (always refer to the *2004-2005 Voting Assistance Guide* for state registration and ballot deadlines).

Armed Forces Voters Week Goal: Attaining 100% contact and availability of FPCAs for all personnel!

As a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) it is your job to provide voting assistance and support. You are also tasked with disseminating accurate, nonpartisan voting information. So, how do you plan to celebrate this week?

We suggest that you use this week to begin wrapping up the registration portion of your 2004 voting assistance program. Conduct final voting workshops and registration drives (don't forget to include all eligible family members). Realizing that for most of you, being a VAO is an additional duty—just try to keep the week's activities simple and fun. We suggest that you join with other voting officers and/or enlist the help of other "on base" organizations, such as wives clubs, family services, boy/girl scouts and other groups to help get out the vote and coordinate voter outreach events. Also, contact your local commissary and exchange to organize voter outreach activities with them.

During these events, emphasize the importance of registering to vote and

requesting an absentee ballot as soon as possible. It is also a good opportunity to remind them to always return their voted ballots as soon as possible to allow sufficient transit time back to their local election official.

Installation newspapers and other internal media, including closed-circuit television and Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) are good ways to spread the word about your voter outreach events during this week. Contact them to advertise the importance of AFVW and be included in the Commander's daily bulletins to help promote the week's voting activities (remember to give them sufficient lead time). A good way to do this is for them to run motivational voting spots. These spots can be used in installation newspapers and on closed-circuit television and radio. One is available from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Richard B. Myers has provided a motivational voting spot, which is excellent for promoting voter participation. You may view and download this video from the FVAP website: www.fvap.gov/vao/cjcs.html.

Another excellent resource to use during AFVW is the Register and Vote 2004 Campaign Public Service Announcements (PSA) These PSAs were created in conjunction with the Ad Council to encourage voter participation among our youth. TV and radio PSAs have been distributed to major commercial media outlets nationwide as well as to Armed Forces Radio & Television Service (AFRTS) for distribution through Department of Defense outlets. You can view these PSAs by visiting www.registerandvote2004.org. Register and Vote 2004 hopes to show 18-24 year-olds that voting is a simple, yet powerful thing to do. ✓

Military Members Deploying Before The General Election

The following guidelines are provided to military members who are about to deploy to a combat zone before the general elections.

If you do not know when you are deploying (relocating) or you do not know your mailing address at your new location, follow these instructions being careful not to provide sensitive or classified information:

❑ Complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) (SF 76) or the online FPCA (OFPCA) and explain to the local election official that you will be on a military commitment and provide an estimation of the dates you will be outside the county or parish. Do not provide geographical location (country or installation name)!

❑ Generally the Unit provides an APO/FPO address to its deploying service members. Ask your chain of command. As a minimum you should be able to obtain a Unit address where you are deploying. Enter this address on item 4 of the FPCA.

When you find out your new address (before deploying or at the new location):

❑ Send another FPCA to use as a Change of Address form. Provide a proper APO/FPO address. Do not write country or installation name. Include the dates you will be outside of the county or parish.

❑ Enter your old address in the Remarks section (item 7) of the FPCA and write in block letters OLD ADDRESS. In the addressee section (under Applicant name and complete address) write in block letters NEW ADDRESS. Provide a proper APO/FPO address only. Again, do not write country or installation name.

Important notes when completing an FPCA:

❑ Send an FPCA or OFPCA now to inform your local election official of your status.

❑ Use State-By-State Instructions as found in Chapter 3 of the *Voting Assistance Guide* (also at www.fvap.gov)

❑ Item 3 (Voting Residence) and Item 4 (Mail Absentee Ballot To) of the FPCA must be different.

❑ Enter a current phone and fax number (with country codes for access from the U.S.) and current email address on the FPCA. This is important in case

the local election official needs to contact you for clarification or questions.

❑ Sign and date the FPCA

❑ If there is not enough room on the FPCA, use a separate sheet of paper.

❑ Place the sheet inside the FPCA. Tape all sides of the FPCA. DO NOT STAPLE!

❑ If using the OFPCA, place it in an envelope with proper postage.

❑ Send the FPCA to your local election official using the address found in Chapter 3, Section III (Where To Send It) of the Guide.

❑ Be certain that your FPCA (or OFPCA envelope) is hand-stamped by the Postal Clerk.

❑ Your state may allow electronic transmission of your FPCA. See State-by-State Instructions in Chapter 3 of the *2004-05 Voting Assistance Guide* or the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov.

❑ **Send an FPCA as a Change of Address Form** whenever you have a change of address that affects where your ballot should be mailed.

Sending the FPCA will help ensure that all information is current at the local election office, including where the ballot should be sent, in order to expedite the absentee voting process.

Voting Assistance Officers should make sure they have a sufficient number of FPCAs on hand to distribute immediately to units upon notice of deployment and enough FPCAs and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWAB) (SF 186) for these members to carry with them in their deployment package.

For additional information on the FPCA and the OFPCA, see the May, 2004 issue of the *Voting Information News*. ☑

Stay tuned for the upcoming September issue of this newsletter featuring the FWAB.

FPCA and FAQ Go Hand In Hand

The *How To Do It* brochure and the *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) are available on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov, in several formats.

The *How to Do It* color brochure is in PDF format and has a list of FAQ, introduction to the FVAP services and contact information. The brochure may be printed on 8 1/2" x 14" paper (back to back). As an alternative, FVAP has created a condensed black and white version of this brochure with only the FAQs that will print on letter size paper (back to back). The FAQs are also available as a web page (HTML format) on the FVAP website.

You may copy and distribute any of these formats for your voting activities.

VAOs are encouraged to use the FAQ Handout and place their contact information and distribute these along with the Federal Post Card Applications (FPCA) during their registration drives or when contacting one on one.

To download these documents go to www.fvap.gov. Select [Publications and Forms](#). ☒



Armed Forces Voters Week

Download Poster from FVAP Website at:
<http://www.fvap.gov/services/afvw.html> ☒

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** markeyjd@state.gov
Deputy VAO: Ms. Bonita Harris, **tel:** (202) 647-5435, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **E-mail:** harrisbg@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532; **E-mail:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
<https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/psb/voting/votingindex.htm>

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LCDR Mark Lofton **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672); **DSN:** 882-4606, **fax:** (901) 874-2054,
DSN fax: 882-2054; **E-mail:** MILL_navyvote@navy.mil, <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap>

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Lt. Col. Lee Shick **tel:** (210) 565-2338 (Mr. John Lowrance), **toll free:** 1-866-229-7074 (select option 4, then 6 from menu), **DSN:** 665-4369; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
E-mail: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

U.S. Marine Corps: GySgt Kenneth B. Warford **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511;
fax: (703) 784-9827, **DSN fax:** 278-9827; **E-mail:** warfordkb@manpower.usmc.mil
https://lnweb1.manpower.usmc.mil/manpower/mi/mra_ofct.nsf/mrp/Voting+Home

U.S. Coast Guard: YNCS Lori McNaught **tel:** (202)-267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
E-mail: LMcNaught@comdt.uscg.mil, http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX:
(703) 588-0108
DSN 425-0108

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER:
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE:
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

*Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.*

E-MAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

V/V -- August 2004

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Changes From The States

Alabama:

- ☐ New address for Baldwin County, P. O. Box 1507, Bay Minette, AL 36507
- ☐ New address for Mobile County, 109 Government Street, Room 116, Mobile, AL 36602-3121

Florida:

Florida no longer requires a witness on their ballot return envelope. Voters will still have to sign the oath on the ballot return envelope, but will no longer need to have it witnessed.

Illinois:

New address for Lake County, 18 N. County Road, Room 101, Waukegan, IL 60085-4364

Nebraska:

- ☐ Now accepts faxing of the blank ballot to the overseas voter.
- ☐ Nebraska has expanded the use of the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Nebraska now allows eligible overseas voters to use the FWAB for all Federal, State and local elections. Nebraska also allows the FWAB return envelope to be used as an application for registration if the person is otherwise eligible to vote in Nebraska.

North Carolina:

New address for Stanly County Board of Elections, 1000 North First Street, Suite 16, Albemarle, NC 28001-2819

Washington:

- ☐ New address for Clallam County, 223 E. 4th St. - Suite No. 1, Port Angeles, WA 98362-0338
- ☐ Washington is no longer a Blanket Primary state.
- ☐ Certain Washington counties, in addition to faxing, accept e-mailing of the FPCA to the local election official and e-mailing the blank ballot to the voter upon request. To find out which county accepts e-mailing, visit www.secstate.wa.gov/elections, then select [County Auditors & Election Departments](#) for county contact information.
- ☐ Washington provides a webpage with Military & Overseas Voters information at: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/>

Please refer to the FVAP website for the most current information and update your 2004-05 Voting Assistance guide. ☒

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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